

PENNSYLVANIA SANITARIUM.



REPORT

READ AT A

Re-Union of the Directors and their Friends, in Philadelphia,

ON

Thursday, May 19th, 1870,

BY THE

PRESIDENT.

American Print, Media, Pa.

DIRECTORS.

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REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT.

The idea of separate institutions for the treatment of inebriates, is an out-growth of our modern civilization, which has been developed in this country within a very few years.

The Pennsylvania Sanitarium is the latest, and most unique exhibition of this idea, to which public attention has been called; and the object of this paper is to present a few leading facts which are the result of experience with inebriates, under its roof.

It was not a part of the design of its projectors, to establish a custodial institution for incorrigible or irreclaimable inebriates, but a hygienic home, where those who might desire to recover from the habit of intoxication, could voluntarily resort, and receive such assistance, as would aid them in efforts to restore the physical energy, elevate the moral sense, and fortify the will, so as to qualify them to return again to the duties of life, and confront the temptations incident to our existence, with safety and success. Such was our ideal.

With this general view of the subject, the beautiful premises now occupied by the Institution at Media, were procured, and fitted up, at considerable cost, for the reception of inmates.

In June 1867 the doors were opened, and two young men entered. Since that time, one hundred and thirty-four persons have availed themselves of its advantages. Three of these, were committed under the law providing for Committees, in cases of "Lunatics and Habitual Drunkards."

We would not have it understood however, that the remaining one hundred and thirty-one, were all volunteers, in the strict sense of that term. Twenty-three were brought in a state of unconsciousness. Thirty-nine consented to come as an alternative only, having been threatened at home, with commitment to Lunatic Asylums, with divorce, banishment, or other

disgrace. They submitted therefore, but not cheerfully. Sixty-eight however, came in compliance with their own volition and judgment, and expressed a desire to re-cuperate and recover.

Thus, the ideal with which we commenced, has not been fully realized; nearly one half the inmates having entered the institution, either in a state of narcotism, or with a secret protest against the proceeding, accepting it only as the best they could do, to avoid something they dreaded more.

Our experience however has been satisfactory; and we come before the people with our confidence unshaken as to the necessity and value of the work, and of the willingness and ability of the community to sustain it.

Before proceeding to state the actual results, it may be well to pause a moment, and consider some of the personal conditions, as well as peculiar social and domestic relations of the inmates, the tendency of which has been to prevent, or at least to protract recovery in many instances.

Forty-four, or about one third of the whole number, were afflicted with troublesome, and in some cases, with serious complications, in the form of epilepsy, paralysis, rheumatism, pulmonary tubercle, neuralgia, heart disease, &c., &c.

Eighty-four, were married men, who had of course their bitter domestic sorrows, from which we dare not withdraw the veil that conceals them from public gaze, but which were a constant drain upon the nervous forces, and interfered with the calm and continued effort, that is necessary to complete recovery.

Fifty, were single men, who had endured many severe conflicts with adverse circumstances, such as only this class of men realize, as threats and privations at home; dismissal by employers; abuses, losses, disgrace; to say nothing of painful convictions and remorse. All, or either of these, would be likely to create unrest or melancholy; and the fruit of melancholy is too often a desire for stimulants. Yet with all these pent up, self-consuming emotions, the average duration of treatment has been one hundred days, and the average results good, as we shall presently see.

But few persons are competent to appreciate the effort it costs an inebriate to submit to the regimen of an institution where his personal liberty is preserved; and fewer still can fully apprehend the value of such an effort to the individual himself. By the practice of self-control, and self-denial, his moral nature, and self-respect are both improved, and he realizes that he is commanding the admiration and encouragement of those who are interested in his behalf. There is a heroism in such voluntary struggles, which is the earnest to such men, of ultimate conquest, and they should have the unremitting aid and counsel of all good persons.

In view of the peculiar disabilities which encompass, and afflict these distinct classes of drinking men, and the want of confidence on the part of their friends in any efforts to reclaim them, what ought to be expected? What *is* the result?

It may be said, in answer, that with the several classes referred to, mixed and ungraded as they have been, thirty-three per cent. have recovered, while a large majority have improved.

If however, the sincere volunteers are taken separately, and the recoveries from their number estimated, the result will show sixty-six, instead of thirty-three per cent.; proving that the presence of unwilling and resistant cases, reduces the general average one half. Our own records justify this conclusion.

An answer concerning the whole number, may be given more in detail, thus:

So far as we are informed, twenty-nine out of the one hundred and thirty-four, have returned to their cups, without any positive evidence of improvement.

Twenty-two have improved very decidedly, so that they find it more difficult to become debauched than formerly, while the intervals between their revels are more protracted.

Sixteen have not been heard from.

Forty-five have recovered, and resumed their avocations in life. Two are insane. Three are deceased, and the remainder are under treatment.

We believe therefore that we have a claim upon public notice and favor, when we can come before the community with such results, especially in view of the fact that they have been obtained during an experimental period, in which we have had to contend with a doubtful public sentiment on the one hand, and an inability on the other, to make the necessary selection of cases to secure the largest per-centage of recoveries.

The practical question which now presents itself, is, what can be done to increase the influence, and extend the usefulness of this organization?

Let us consider this question a moment. With the vagrant, or work-house class of inebriates, or with the criminal class, we have nothing to do, in this connection. They deserve consideration in another place, and at another time; but with the artisan, the clerk, the merchant, and the professional man, we have to do. These are personally associated with the daily business, and interests of society. They are producers, and desire to continue such; but thousands of them have already became, and thousands more are rapidly becoming victims of this terrible disorder. They mingle in our families, and constitute a part of our social organism; they have a love for the good and the pure; but they are overcome by an enemy which leads them into captivity, and hinders their social development. We are organized in their behalf. What shall we do?

The subject of buildings for hospital and reformatory purposes, is one which belongs to this question, and it will be briefly considered. In this community, we have been trained with notions concerning our public charities, which, however humane they may have been in their inception, are not in conformity with the most enlightened views which obtain at this day. The old idea of immense and massive structures, with all their defensive and restraining appliances, has come down to us through generations, and impressed itself upon our modern architecture to an extent, which deprives our reformatories of that simple and home-like character, that is essential to the highest type of institution life and training.

It is a fact, which is essential to our civilization, that there are classes of persons who must be separated temporarily from the

active duties of life, for the common good. Inebriates constitute such a class. Their separation however, should be as little like separation, as circumstances will permit; and therefore the buildings which they are to occupy, should be as much like their homes, or homes which men are generally ambitious to possess, and enjoy, as possible.

Imposing public edifices, with surrounding walls, and guarded gates, for the purpose of separating their inmates from the heart of the community, may be well enough for convicts or maniacs; but for men of feeble will, or perverted tastes, or depraved appetites, or exhausted energies, or depressed spirits, such imposing structures are needless.

Human sympathy is a blessed messenger to the needy, even as an occasional visitor; but when it is the presiding and ruling genius of an institution, it becomes a perpetual benediction, that does more to soothe the asperities of a disordered mind, and to elevate the struggling manhood of a degraded spirit, than any other impulse or sentiment of the race. It cannot be found in solitude, or in isolation from normal influences.—Apart from the circle of legitimate family life, and the christian surroundings which beautify and sanctify such a life, it can only be approximated, among separated, and classified unfortunates, in family buildings, with a united head, a family table, and a family altar.

For these reasons, it is respectfully submitted, that separate houses, conveniently and economically arranged, each with its own appointments, and all under careful supervision, and inspection, will meet the demands of volunteer inebriates, more economically and successfully than any other plan.

Connected with the same management, there should be a small infirmary or receiving hospital, where all persons who are brought in a state of intoxication, or who come unwillingly, should be located, till they can be properly classified and transferred to appropriate quarters; and those who may need continued medical treatment should of course be placed under hospital discipline.

That there are women who drink alcoholic liquors to excess is doubtless true; but it is believed that the current statements on the subject, are greatly exaggerated. That women become inebriated in other ways, however, is not to be denied. We would take a very incomplete view of the subject of intemperance, if we did not comprehend other intoxicants than alcoholic liquors.

The extent to which Opium and its salts, is used, is not, we think, generally appreciated. Women and professional men are chiefly given to this habit. It is a solitary vice, of which no body need know, till it is so far developed as to advertise itself, and the sad victims yeild to the reproach of an unsympathizing world, and fall into despondency and despair.

There is a peculiar nervo-mental condition to which many persons are subject, that brings with it, a conciousness of a tendency to seek stimulants, or some artificial support, and which at the same time seems to captivate the will, and prevent it from gainsaying the demand.

Maternal duties, and perhaps maternal sorrows, and watchings; household cares; the demands of social life, and especially of fashionable life; accumulate with heavy pressure upon a feeble, and yet energetic and spirited woman; and with a noble purpose to meet all her obligations, be they real or imaginary, she finds her sensitive nature unequal to the task without support, and she seeks, and finds such support, in laudanum or morphia. She uses it in every emergency, and finally can no more enter upon the duties of the day without it, than can the confirmed toper, take his breakfast, without his morning dram.

Many a poor woman who earns her pittance at the wash tub, or sewing machine, feels the same kind of impulse; and, too conscientious or fearful to drink intoxicating liquors, does not know that she is doing a more dangerous thing, when she drinks laudanum.

The time has fully come to consider this question. It has already claimed a share of attention and service at the Sanitarium. Men have been received and restored. Women have applied, but could not be admitted. Hundreds of them are in

this community, who are feeling in the dark for a way to escape, but find none. On our plan of separate cottages, pleasant and private provision could be made for such, at little cost.

With these views and plans, should they be in accordance with the popular wish, we shall be enabled, not only to provide curative appliances for curable inebriates, and return them to society and its productive pursuits; but to relieve many families who are now burdened with the care of incompetent and prodigal members, by furnishing such, with an honorable seclusion from the world, under hospital care.

Households that are now in bondage, will thus be enabled to enjoy domestic comfort, and contribute their quota of industry to the Commonwealth; for it is not to be denied that a considerable proportion of inebriates live in a sort of chronic debauch, from which they will never recover while exposed to temptation, but whose pathway through the remainder of life may be made more hopeful, by the influence of christian oversight and care.

On the other hand, it may be said that an institution, however well organized and conducted, and however satisfactory in its results, can at best reach only a few, and the good that it can accomplish, will be very limited, in proportion to the magnitude of the evil.

This is doubtless true, in a restricted and superficial sense; but there is another view to be taken of this subject. An institution becomes the centre of information and influence, and reflects the power of its thought, and experience, upon the community, to mould popular sentiment in the right direction, and reach the evil in its source.

The facts that are here presented, and similar facts from other institutions, as they have been presented to the people, within the past few years, have not only secured public attention, but have commanded public surprise, and the confidence of many of our most thoughtful and intelligent men.

In view of the admitted failure of well meant reform movements in this direction, the people are eager to avail themselves of the encouraging results of efforts to deal with intemperance as a disease; and we are free to express it, as our own judgment, that as there never has been so prevalent a public evil in our midst as intemperance, so there has not been so rapid a growth of a new and practical idea, as connected with this reform, as that which constitutes the theme of this address.

There are many victims of inebriety, who do not habitually debauch themselves in glittering saloons, or in the giddy circles of social revelry; but who, in their own sacred and secluded Gethsemanes, are communing with the profoundest needs of their natures, and struggling to find relief; but who are led away by impulses that they cannot control, for want of the help, which is in the power of the people to bestow.

The people are already waiting to respond to the results of satisfactory experience in this department of scientific philanthropy. A few of our citizens have already been impressed with the true philosophy of the subject, and have come forward with encouragement, as enlightened, as it has been generous. But for them, we should have grown weary, and fainted by the way. They already have their reward. To those who have stood timidly by, and said, "We will help, when you prove yourselves to be a useful institution," we can only say: Here is our record. It is not made up of pathetic appeals, nor does it exhibit the enthusiasm of mere theorists. It addresses itself to you on the basis of facts and experience. It appeals to you as citizens. Is it satisfactory?

We may add to our own, the emphatic words of Dr. Willard Parker of New York, whose distinguished talents have been employed on this subject. He says:

"Inebriation is a subject of vast moment in its bearing on the welfare of mankind. It is beginning to assume a new place in the mind of the philanthropist, and now stands, in so far as our knowledge goes, where the subject of insanity did fifty or sixty years ago.

Intemperance is a prolific cause of insanity; but while insanity deprives the public of the value and service of one individual, inebriety deprives it of hundreds, and entails upon the offspring a stronger tendency even to the disease than

does insanity."

Thus the claim of inebriates comes to us with a force which is irresistible, and especially for women. While the provision made for inebriate men, is exceedingly limited, there is no separate provision for inebriate women; and it comes within the scope of the work designed by the Sanitarium, to make such provision whenever the means are furnished.

We submit these experiences, and views to our fellow-citizens. We do it deliberately, and under a sense of duty. Duty to our fellow men, who have fallen, and who are falling every day around us. Duty to our christianity, whose crowning glory it is, that the Divine reconciliation which it proclaimed, may be interpreted and exemplified, by a reconciliation between human need, and human help.

JOSEPH PARRISH, President.

To the Directors.

Media, May 19, 1870.



APPENDIX

Inmates from Pennsylvania 87, New York 11, Maryland 8, New Jersey 4, Delaware 4, West Virginia 3, Kentucky 3, Indiana 2, Massachusetts 2, Tennessee 1, Virginia 1, Missouri 1, District of Columbia 1, Connnecticut 1, Alabama 1, Illinois 1, Nova Scotia 1, Ohio 1, Rhode Island 1.—Total 134.

Married 84, Single 50.—Total 134.

Occupations—Actor 1, Agents 3, Alderman 1, Army Officer 1, Artist 1, Architect 1, Auctioneer 1, Clerks 33, Clergyman 1, Druggists 2, Editor 1, Engraver 1, Engineer 1, Farmers 5, Judge 1, Lawyers 9, Manufacturers 5, Mechanics 8, Merchants 23, Miller 1, Naval Officer 1, Painter 1, Physicians 10, Sea Captains 2, Students 2, Teacher 1, No occupation 17.—Total 134.

LOCATION.

The Pennsylvania Sanitarium is located at Media, in Delaware County, fourteen miles from Philadelphia, on the West Chester and Philadelphia railroad. Trains leave 31st and Chestnut Street, Phila., ten times daily.—There are two daily mails, and a telegraph. Media is a beautiful village, of about one thousand inhabitants, containing churches, and an Institute of Science, with its library and cabinet.

The Institution occupies five acres of ground, in a retired portion of the

village, and is remarkable for its quiet and beautiful surroundings.

The building is convenient, the rooms being airy, lighted with gas, and liberally furnished. A large parlor, billiard room, library, music and a literary society among the inmates, afford means for social entercourse, and entertainment.

Russian baths, generous diet, and exercise in the open air, are among the

means that are employed to recuperate the physical system.

The inmates are treated and trusted with special reference to preserving their self-respect.

MODE OF ADMISSION.

Gentlemen who desire to place themselves under such influences as the Sanitarium furnishes, may enter it without any other formality, than a compliance with such conditions as may be agreed upon between themselves and the President. Those whose friends desire to place them under treatment, can do so, by observing the following provision of a recent Act of Assembly.

"Any person addicted to the intemperate use of narcotics or stimulants, may, at the discretion of the proper officer of the institution, be received for custody, or treatment, either upon voluntary presentation, or, if a declared habitual drunkard, upon presentation by such person's legally constituted committee; or, if having no committee, upon presentation by such person's guardian, or next friend, who produces a certificate of two physicians, setting forth that they have examined the person so presented by his guardian, or next friend, and the result of their examination; which certificate must be verified by the oath or affirmation of its signers taken before a judicial officer, having authority to administer oaths, and have the written attestation of such judicial officer, that the physicians named are practitioners in good repute, and that the signatures professing to be theirs are genuine."

Application for admission should be made by certificate or otherwise, to the President,

JOSEPH PARRISH, M. D., Media, Penna.

The following form of certificate will meet the provisions of the law:-CERTIFICATE.

The undersigned having examined the case of and being satisfied that he is addicted to the intemperate use of are of the opinion that he is a fit subject for treatment at the Pennsylvania Sanitarium.

Given under our hands this day of 18

M. D.

11. 1)

This must be verified on "oath or affirmation of its signers." before a judicial officer, who will attest the same in due form.

When a person enters the Sanitarium, he will be furnished with a copy of the following

HOUSE ORDINANCE.

Breakfast from 7 to 8. Breakfast room closes at 8.30, A. M.

Religious Services at 9:30, P. M. Dinner at 1. Tea at 6.

A Watchman is on duty every night.

Mail distributed on arrival. by Assistant Physician. Baths and Dispensary under charge of Assistant Physician. No smoking in halls, library or domitories. No reading in domitories, or visiting from room to room after retiring for the night. Lights to be extinguished. Whistling and singing in the halls is a disturbance and must be avoided.

Library open to all. Daily papers, magazines, &c., furnished, subject

to regulations.

Billiard Room, and Table free to all.

The basis of intercourse between inmates of the house, is such as regulates gentlemen everywhere.

Temporary absence from Institution, subject to Prescription by phy-

sician.

Punctuality enjoined.

He will also be expected to sign the following

CODE OF ETHICS.

As the inmates of the Sanitarium should ever be mindful of the obligations they assume in being temporary residents under its roof, it is agreed by them to adopt the following standard of deportment, to be observed among themselves, towards the officers of the Institution, and the community.

1. We recognize and acknowledge the common infirmity, for the relief

of which we have sought the aid of this Institution.

We appreciate the fact that we shall derive no permanent benefit from our residence here, unless we desire to recover, and unless our desires are seconded by persistent efforts, to co-operate with the means employed.

3. We admit the necessity we are under for guidance and assistance, and will cheerfully submit to the regulations which may be prescribed for us.

4. We can not, consistently with our best interests and obligations, leave the Borough and the neighborhood bounds, without the consent and approbation of the House Officers.

5. Intoxication will be considered an offense of which we dare not be guilty, without falsifying our manhood and our veracity; and when we feel the appetite or desire coming upon us for a stimulant, we will at once report ourselves to one of the physicians, and accept what remedies he may prescribe.

6. To bring intoxicants of any kind into the house, or to convive at such a proceeding, will be considered a violation of trust, of which no

gentleman will be guilty.

7. We recognize the fact that the inhabitants of Media and vicinity, will soon know us as inmates of the Sanitarium, and that our walk and conversation should be circumspect and orderly, that we may prove to them our gentlemanly character and bearing.

8. We will therefore avoid fellowship with low-bred persons, and especially such persons as are addicted to intoxication, or to frequenting places

where intoxicants are sold, or given.

9. Profanity, and light conversation on the subject of our past excesses, will be regarded as not only unbecoming gentlemen who desire to forget the errors of the past, and press on to a better future, but as injurious to our morals, and to our dignity as men.

10. We are not unmindful of our obligation to acknowledge a Divine Providence, and therefore express our belief that we should attend upon daily worship in the family, and upon public worship, in the churches of

the town.

- 11. We recognize that it is not the physical, nor the intellectual, but the moral and spiritual, that stamps the character of manhood; and will therefore practice self-discipline and culture, by self-examination in private, as an important aid to our moral growth. We should each give some time to this means, every day.
 - 12. We will endeavor not to lose courage and hope. The best things,

come little by little.

13. In the event of a violation of any provision of this code, we will submit to the decision of the President.

OCCUPATION.

In connection with the employment of inmates in the Sanitarium, there are several important facts, which must be considered.

First. The physical condition of an inebriate, is generally characterized by feebleness of the nutritive powers, and by a variety of nervous or other disorders. The withdrawal of his accustomed stimulant, induces, for a time at least, lassitude, and a sense of physical inability to engage in anything. He needs repose and quiet, till the natural order of things is reestablished.

SECOND. His moral constitution is characterized, either by apathy and a love of ease; or by indecision, and restlessness; to which are added, a deficient appreciation of duty and responsibility, as well as an impaired judgment and will. Any premature or undue strain upon these, delays the period of normal adjustment.

THIRD. The time spent in an institution is not usually long enough to secure thoroughness in any kind of industry. It should be much longer.

With these facts before us, the best thing that presents itself, is for each inmate to cultivate in himself, the finest qualities of his mind and heart, with such assistance as he can command. He should strive to develop an individuality, and a purpose; and this effort should be seconded in every possible way, by those who are temporarily his guardians.

Light reading at first, may be all that he can do. Afterwards he should read systematically, and study, for the purpose of mental training, if for no other.

Lectures and examinations on physiology and the laws of health; on psychology and the laws of mind; on the physical sciences, and on the elements of law; should all be employed as a part of a course of personal culture. Provision is made for such instruction in the proper season.

Mechanics can find temporary employment, if so disposed, with the artizans of the town, when their condition will warrant such occupation.

The great thing to be learned is self-reliance; and the best means of obaining it, is self-discipline; trusting always in the Divine Teacher.

A WORD TO FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF INEBRIATES.

You have a relative or friend who is addicted to inebriety. You desire him to remove to the Sanitarium. State your wishes to him frankly, kindly, decidedly. Do not deceive him.—Do not reproach him. Appeal to his moral sense. Ask him to accede to your request for his own good. Show him the facts as herein stated. If he will not comply with your wishes, he can be told with equal frankness and kindness that the law furnishes the remedy. That it is not a part of a criminal code, for the punishment of offendors, but a beneficient law enacted especially for his protection and advantage.

If he still declines, the certificate of two physicians, properly attested will decide the question. When he enters the institution, there must be complete co-ordination between you and its officers. If they work one way, and you another, the end

will not be accomplished.

You should study the spirit, and regulations of the Institution, and in every way in your power, promote them.

A WORD TO INEBRIATES.

You admit that you are in need of assistance in order that you may recover from the infirmity that imperils you. You cannot recover except on the basis of self-respect, and a sense of moral obligation. At home you are surrounded by allurements, that your weak virtue is unable to withstand.

You are in the midst of associations that your course of life has to some extent embittered. It is better for you and for your home, that you should for a season interrupt these associations. You need change, and your friends need rest. You are conscious of this yourself, but you have not known how

to accomplish it.

You are not insane and do not need the restraints of insanity. Your are morally infirm, and need self-discipline and

culture. Perhaps you are physically diseased, and need medical treatment.

You cannot afford any longer to submit to the foe that has so long bound you. Your own-secret yearnings for a better life, tell you this. You cannot afford as citizens, to deprive your business or society, of the energy, time, and money that is now given to excess.

Society cannot afford to lose the services of a single good citizen; and the pleadings of your own consciences, prompt you to break away from your accustomed associations long enough, to establish habits of sobriety; and to be strengthened in virtue and honor.

You cannot compromise your self-respect, the dignity, or independence of your manhood, by making such an effort.

You need friends to stand between you and your foe, till you are strong enough to resist his appreaches.

This is the value of institutions. They are your friends.

You should apply, and enter voluntarily if possible. You will do a manly act when you do so, which of itself will be a step towards restoration.

This first step taken, each subsequent one will be easier, so long as the will is in the right direction.

OWL CLUB.

An organization, known as the Owl Club, which is composed of all the inmates and officers of the Sanitarium, meets weekly, (except during the warm season,) for mutual improvement.

The exercises of these meetings consist of reading a Journal of incidents and experiences of the previous week,—selections from standard authors,—volunteer papers on scientific and other subjects,—critiques on the proceedings of the previous meeting; and discussions on various subjects.

A standard question for volunteer essays is "Why do men use Intoxicants to excess?"

The valedictory services connected with the departure of those whose terms of residence expire, are frequently occasions of much interest.